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District Ranger, Lakes District
Mt. Hood N.F., Estacada, Oregon.

December 24, 1957

R. W. Cowlin, Director

RX-NW RESEARCH PROGRAM, Douglas-fir Beetle Studies

You are aware that a study was made by the Experiment Station in 1956 of the blowdown and Douglas-fir beetle problem in the Pinhead Creek area of your district. Some of the data from this study, which was designed to investigate the relationship between blowdown and subsequent beetle-kill, were summarized early last summer. Because we thought the preliminary data might be of current value to you in your timber salvage and sales program, Ken Wright of our staff personally provided copies to Julian Wojtowych of your staff in August. You were away from the Ranger Station at the time, but presumably were informed of Wright's visit. The purpose of this memorandum is to make record of the summary and to distribute the preliminary findings to the supervisor's office of the Mt. Hood, and to Timber Management at the R.O.

Enclosed is one additional copy of each of the maps which were provided to you this past summer. One shows the locations of individual Douglas-firs and other tree species killed from 1950 to 1955 on the 320-acre study area in Township 7 South, Range 8 East. The other shows the volumes (Gross Scribner Decimal C) on 2 chain by 4 chain plots or subdivisions of the area. Because this township is unsurveyed, a straight mile-long section of the new Clackamas River logging road was used as a base line for the west edge of the plot. Tie-in points are indicated on the map. Since the bulk of the mortality occurred from 1952 to 1955, much of it is still sound and therefore probably of current timber sale value. The area is no longer being used for study purposes.

The study area was gridded at 4-chain intervals, and distances were chained; accordingly, locations of the plotted trees are quite accurate. Because the topography is generally level, it seemed to the men examining the plot that the area would lend itself readily to a salvage program, probably by cat-logging.

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Following is a summary of the standing and down volume of sawtimber mortality recorded on the 320-acre study area.

SPECIES	STANDING MORTALITY Total (Bd.ft.)	STANDING MORTALITY Per Acre (Bd.ft.)	DOWN MORTALITY Total (Bd.ft.)	DOWN MORTALITY Per Acre (Bd.ft.)	TOTAL (Bd.ft.)	TOTAL/ACRE (1950-1955) (Bd.ft.)
D. Fir	2,184,491	6,827	761,180	2,379	2,945,670	9,205
W. Hemlock	2,290	7	42,290	132	44,580	139
W. Pine	2,680	8	9,790	30	12,470	39
W. Fir	5,490	17	3,870	12	9,360	29
Totals:	2,194,951	6,859	817,130	2,553	3,012,081	9,412

It is obvious that the mortality during the 5-year period, more than 3 million board feet total or almost 9500 board feet per acre, has seriously depleted the stand and will cancel out growth for many years.

We hope this preliminary information will be of value to you. If you feel that some of the other information gathered in the study would be of immediate value to you, we will be glad to make it available. Final results of the study will eventually be presented in an Experiment Station publication.

R. W. Cowlin

cc: SO Mt. Hood
RO Timber Management
Study file

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